

8/29/07

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Martin, Mr. Copps, Mr. Adelstein, Ms. Tate, and Mr. McDowell,

I would like to make a plea to the FCC and to my government to keep the airwaves from being swallowed up completely by media conglomerates. Saying no is not impossible. I'm a mother of two boys. They will whine and complain. They may even threaten legal action (I'm talking about the conglomerates now...) but you know when the public interest is not being served. Oh, that's right, you don't know. They don't have to defend themselves to the FCC anymore at license renewal time.

Well, just to make it clear that they aren't living up to their end of the bargain, let me paint a picture for you.

Our family lives in Baltimore, Maryland. We have a newspaper being starved to death by its parent company, Tribune. The paper is quite a bit lighter these days. We have a public television station that broadcasts the lottery number drawings to pay the bills. And the local stations "news" is little better than someone reading the headlines from the emaciated Baltimore Sun. We don't have cable but from what I've seen of it elsewhere, we're not missing much.

The voices I hear on commercial radio and television are feeding the public the same bland, repetitive menu of shock "journalism". We could be eating organic veggies and instead it's fast food all around.

I make documentaries for a living. I love the medium. I know how talented film makers can be and how varied our voices are here in the United States. None of those unique voices are being heard on our commercially owned airwaves.

Please release the airwaves from the strangle hold of media conglomerates. Just tell the boys "no" when they come asking for more. It's NOT all about making money. It's about free and open public discourse so our democracy doesn't wither away. Grow a backbone and get it done.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Jane Page*

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